



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

ROUNDING UP THE YEAR: The Chinese belief in displaying round-shaped fruits in our homes to welcome a new year is now embedded in Philippine culture. It is hoped that the circular objects would bring prosperity without end throughout the year.

'Gains are now being felt'

No safe 'crackers for pets, people, environment

By Tessa R. Salazar and Jerome Aeling

THERE are no safe fireworks for humans, animals and the environment.

Three days before the country plunges into a night of loud, fiery and drunken revelry to usher in the new year, scientists and animal welfare groups went on a rally of their own outside the Manila Zoo to protest against the government's allegedly misplaced priorities which have contributed to several laws being traditionally broken during the days and nights leading up to New Year's Eve.

"The government should exercise more 'political will' in formulating and enforcing the firecracker ban," said the sailors led by the EcoMarine Coalition and HO 1400 44.

Get ready for a wet New Year

Get ready for a wet New Year. The weather bureau said the first quarter of 2011 will be wet as the Philippines starts its first half of the La Niña weather phenomenon.

Already, the rainy season has arrived six months early and is expected to be felt until May.

"Considering that right now we are relatively dry, you would expect 2011 to be wet and we're seeing indicators of that," said Graciano Torales, officer in charge of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

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P-Noy upbeat on economic takeoff in 2011



FLY HIGH A Philippine flag is spread out in preparation for the flag-raising ceremony marking the 114th death anniversary of the country's national hero Dr. Jose Rizal on Thursday.

By Norman Bernardino and Jerome Aeling

FEEL that light.

"We're not just seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. In certain sectors, we can already feel the light, the warmth of the new beginning," President Aquino told reporters after leading the Rizal Day ceremonies yesterday at the Rizal Park in Manila.

Mr. Aquino said the country's citizens could already feel the gains of his administration in managing the economy.

The President referred to the government registering a budget surplus of P500 million in November when a deficit of P6 billion was expected at that time.

"And we didn't achieve that by tightening our belts and those that needed funds were no longer funded so we can window dress. All [them] that needed funding were funded but still we had a surplus," he said.

The President also said the needs of Filipinos could be met.



P-NOY'S FIRST RIZAL DAY P-Noy Aquino salutes Jose Rizal at the Rizal Park.

AFP: Reds now threat to dev't, collected P1.5 billion in 'taxes'

By Cynthia O. Salinas in Manila and Delfin T. Malier Jr. inquirer Southern Luzon

THE NEW People's Army (NPA) has become less of a threat to security but has turned into a serious danger to economic development after it had collected at least P1.5 billion from politicians, businessmen and companies since 1998, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said yesterday.

The NPA collected from January to November this year

Witness ill; court junks bribery raps vs trader

By Nikko Dixon

A MANILA court has dismissed the bribery case against a businessman who allegedly tried to buy off a court of Appeals justice on behalf of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) because of insufficient evidence as the main witness had suffered a debilitating brain injury.

Associate Justice Jose Sabido Jr., 68, who accused businessman Francisco Borja of offering him P15 million to influence himself from a 2006 case involving Meralco and the three-man court.

DBM: No more pork served on silver platter

By TJ Burgonio

THIS TIME the pork won't be served on a silver platter.

Beginning 2011, lawmakers are required to post details about their pork barrel to government websites to allow the public to keep tabs on how and where their money is being spent.

Provisions in the P1.6-trillion national budget require the up-loading of information on food subsidies, bid documents, the



AFTER The house Venus Raj is building in front of her old home for her mother, Esther Razoneta, who oversees its construction in the photo taken on Dec. 15.



BEFORE Venus Raj shows the lot where she grew up in Barangay San Vicente, Bata, Cavendish Sur, in this photo taken on April 7.

Venus showers major, major graces on ma, builds house for family

By Juan Escudador Jr. inquirer Southern Luzon

BATA, Cavendish Sur—Mama Raj, 44, owner-up in this year's Miss Universe pageant, has showered her family with grace from her earnings, unloading a lot of wealth from her mother's abode.

Esther Razoneta, 66, said she no longer worried about debts, food on the table and other deprivations that her family had suffered before her daughter won major beauty pageants.

"That family had a painful experience in our community. Because of our poverty, we were talked about behind our backs. We heard comments about our poor status, like our inability to own



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Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey
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A way to greet new year

LETTERS

TRADITIONS, like last, were the tradition. Take out the tradition. The whole world is celebrating the advent of a new year. The whole world is celebrating the advent of a new year. The whole world is celebrating the advent of a new year.

We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year.

We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year. We look forward to the new year.

Why is a fact-finding body unconstitutional now?

I AM amazed by the decision of the Supreme Court (SC) ruling the Tripartite Commission unconstitutional. In previous SC rulings, similar fact-finding commissions were deemed to be legal, including during the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Why would a similar commission be unconstitutional now?

To the justices' mind, the Supreme Court decision means a difference made from then to now.

same usual experience that we, little look forward to in the past of an occasion to the celebration of their living years. But in 1915, when it was still in the air, it was a surprising the surprise that this time around to be. They would have been in the air, but they were not. They were not. They were not.

We are the only country where we have a fact-finding body. We have a fact-finding body. We have a fact-finding body. We have a fact-finding body. We have a fact-finding body.

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others are present. After the leader's death, the Ombudsman said that making sure that the body was not a body. The Ombudsman said that making sure that the body was not a body. The Ombudsman said that making sure that the body was not a body.

—PHILIPPA P. PANGLOS, panglos@panglos.com

Why is a fact-finding body unconstitutional now?

investigates. But, because of the fact-finding body, the fact-finding body is not a fact-finding body. The fact-finding body is not a fact-finding body. The fact-finding body is not a fact-finding body.

—JEROME S. CUBERO, cubero@jeronimo.com

NFA not meant to make profits

THE 2015 NFA income is due to fall prices of the demand for rice. The 2015 NFA income is due to fall prices of the demand for rice. The 2015 NFA income is due to fall prices of the demand for rice.

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NFA stock is in NFA warehouse

rice of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which are providing loans to the government for rice.

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which is unconstitutional. The fact-finding body is not a fact-finding body. The fact-finding body is not a fact-finding body. The fact-finding body is not a fact-finding body.

Currency designs reflect values of ruling class

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If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about the contents of this column, please write to the Inquirer, P.O. Box 118, Manila 1000, Philippines. The Inquirer will not be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

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ILAYO SA DISGRASYA ANG MGA BATA

WALANG BATANG MAGPAPAPUTOK

BAWAL

BUMILI, MAGBENTA AT GUMAMIT NG
PAPUTOK, AT PAILAW ANG KABATAAN



Kampanya Kontra Paputok

—JEROME S. CUBERO, cubero@jeronimo.com



PROTEST AGAINST DOLPHIN SHOW
AWKAL, rights activists, holding banners for local government's withdrawal of a dolphin show at the Resorts World in Quezon City in protest of the marine's captivity. The trainer (right) said she cannot afford to release a dolphin with their routine involvement of the dolphins. Society groups have depicted the performers without incident. *PHOTO BY JIMMY L. SANCHEZ*

DepEd fires GMA consultants in dep't

By Tere Quintanilla

MANILA—In parallel to education and in the past, the Department of Education (DepEd) has ended the contract of a number of consultants hired during the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The DepEd did not disclose how many consultants would be larger units to work in January.

According to DepEd's communication unit, the department had accumulated six consultants over the years due to lack of funds and plantilla positions to be in place.

"The DepEd has not renewed the contracts of a number of its consultants as part of its thrust to streamline operations while maintaining the continuity of these select services in line with the priority projects of the department," the department said in a statement yesterday.

The decision to sever the contracts would have followed a review of relevant roles in the country's largest bureaucracy said DepEd.

Education Secretary Arroyo-Ortega.

The reduction of consultants is an ongoing effort, keeping in mind the individual expertise of the consultants and how they fit into the policy direction of the organization regardless of the administration they previously served," Mayor said.

The DepEd said the decision was purely administrative and should not be viewed as a political move.

The DepEd National Office has three and several Education Secretary Arroyo-Ortega for having the same consultants in the department, estimating that some 400 consultants and contractual employees were being highly paid.

The latter-confirmed that the consultants and contractual personnel, among them field engineers and insurance personnel, were campy areas from the last DepEd administration.

It was not clear, however, whether the current phase would affect their temporary personnel.

Capt. Jovito A. Avanceña, veteran pilot, was 86

CAPT. JOVITO A. Avanceña, a former pilot and pioneer staff member of the original Bureau of Aeronautics, died of cancer cancer on Nov. 24 at the Makati Medical Center, 84 years.

After more than 30 years as the bureau and later the Civil Aeronautics Administration, he retired in 1986 as head of the Philippine National Bank Aviation Office. He was also the civilian pilot of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Avanceña was trained and served with the 127th Wing, the "Thunder-

Command, United States Air Force, based at Nichols Field, Manila, in 1945. He was piloted by war hero and first Philippine air force pilot, Generalissimo Emilio Aguinaldo, to join the Bureau of Aeronautics in 1946. He was the only Filipino to fly ground crew across the last eight months of the "War," of August 4, had Commander Gen Douglas MacArthur fly aboard his Philippine Airlines and trained completely in the United States and France.

Avanceña is survived by his wife, Aurora Macabita, and children



AVANCEÑA
 Maria, Soriano, Gerry Paul and son Raul. He was with his late wife, Aurora Macabita.

NHA overshot budget by P176.5M, COA finds

By Leticia B. Salazar

MANILA—Being disclosed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the National Housing Authority (NHA) overshot its budget by P176.5 million in 2009 on personal services, including salaries and other benefits, the Commission on Audit has found.

The NHA officers and personnel who received the disallowed benefits should be returned, the COA said.

The audit agency noted that 2009 was the second year in a row that the NHA exceeded its personal services budget. In 2008, it overspent on personal services allocations by P193.24 million.

According to the COA, the DBM only approved a P1,849-million expense opera-

ting budget for the NHA in 2009, against the NHA's actual expense of P2,025.5 million.

The disapproved amounts included provisions for various allowances, subsidies and incentive payments.

Under the approved budget, the allowance for personal services was P250.559 million. However, the NHA spent P751.966 million on salaries and wages, other compensation, personal benefits contributions and other benefits. It also spent another P565,166 for the back benefits of employees.

This resulted in the NHA overspending on personal services by P176.499 million, the COA said.

It recommended that "NHA officers and employees be required to return benefits and allowances disapproved by the DBM for lack of legal basis."

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Soda can causes flight delay

A 38-BU BOUNG plane, shorted aircraft, and quickly returned to passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) yesterday after a soda can trapped in packing tape was discovered in clearance, police said.

Three passengers, however, the inspection was held to be suspicious of any explosives and the aircraft—Gulfstream G550, flight 8335—was cleared for takeoff after two hours, Manila International Airport said.

It was not confirmed who had left the aircraft with the soda can.

The incident occurred at 1:14 a.m. as the plane was taking on the runway of Manila Terminal 1, preparing for takeoff, said Capt. Manuel Ordoñez, deputy chief of the Police Group for Aviation Security (PGAS).

A flight attendant identified as Jack-

Marino discovered the Coke can wrapped in tape that had been placed atop the battery counter on the Boeing 777 jet, prompting the pilot to return to the ramp for security procedures.

Security-mating dogs led by handler SPFC John Villaverde and four others inspected the item, while a special operations team evacuated the 354 passengers and crew.

At 2:30 a.m., the aircraft was declared clear of any threat, according to a report by PGAS flight instructor Jose "Bobby" Manzano.

Passenger carrier was not clear who had left the can, which was half full of soda. The official said the police could not investigate unless the airline caught a probe.

At about 3:30 a.m., the plane finally departed.

(A/R)

Prove tax payment, 2 firms told

THE BUREAU of Customs (BOC) has ordered two firms to show proof that they paid taxes for P500 million worth of imported metal products, Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said yesterday.

The bureau earlier seized P90 million worth of allegedly untaxed metal from two firms.

Alvarez said BOC and National Bureau of Investigation officers inspected two warehouses in San Mateo and Malabon after it was discovered that the firms received a big dose P500-million worth of metal products were being kept there.

The warehouses were reportedly main-

tained by Mindoro International Inc. and Metal Trade Inc. (MTI), Alvarez said.

He said Pinarosa ordered to make sure the importers of the metal products paid the correct 9% Customs excise taxes based in the two warehouses metal products that included two rolled steel coils, metal flat sheets, angle bars, and plates, a black non-stick tube, steel plungers and fan-blades, and other metal products.

"While imported metal and metal products are not the country duty free, some importers still ensure an unethical smuggling to evade payment of the 12 percent value-added tax," Alvarez said. Philip C. Tolosa

State of calamity declared in Albay

LEGASPI CITY—A woman was dead and her son was reported missing as relentless rains continued to pummel Albay, raising water levels in rivers and bringing floods to low elevated areas, authorities said.

The province's governor, Joy Belmonte, declared a state of calamity in the province amid reports of landslides and flooding in at least five towns: Malilip, San Antonio, Bantay, Marikina and Lucena.

The state was identified as being in a state of calamity, according to the province's governor, Joy Belmonte, who said at least 3,600 residents in the five towns were in evacuation camps. The rains brought heavy deep flooding in the city of Marikina. The governor said he would coordinate the emergency response to the crisis, as a state of emergency has been declared in the five towns.

Belmonte said the state of calamity was declared in the five towns because of the heavy rains and flooding in the five towns. The state of calamity was declared in the five towns because of the heavy rains and flooding in the five towns. The state of calamity was declared in the five towns because of the heavy rains and flooding in the five towns.

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Giant puppets come to life on New Year's Eve

By **Benito Lopez**
Inquirer General Editor

STA. ANA, Pangasinan—A family tradition of using dancing giant puppets to draw in children on New Year's Eve will soon be revived in Sta. Ana, Pangasinan. The tradition, which dates back to the Spanish era, was revived by the town's mayor, Dr. Benito Lopez, on Dec. 31 at the town hall.

The puppets will appear at the town hall to draw in children. The puppets will appear at the town hall to draw in children. The puppets will appear at the town hall to draw in children.

The tradition, however, began in the town of San Antonio, Pampanga, where the puppets were first used to draw in children.

Belmonte's son, Manuel, said his father made the first figure in 1970. The first figure was made of wood and was used to draw in children.

Over the years, the puppets have been made of wood and were used to draw in children. The puppets have been made of wood and were used to draw in children.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT giant puppets of Sta. Ana, Pangasinan, draw in children on New Year's Eve.

Manuel said his father made the first figure in 1970. The first figure was made of wood and was used to draw in children. The first figure was made of wood and was used to draw in children.

"My father said it was his gift to the children, the world of it is to be like a giant. Before that, children can't see the puppets, so he made it to be like a giant," Manuel said.

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NEW YEAR.
NEW DECADE.
NEW CHALLENGES.

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JANUARY 2011

NEWS BRIEFS

ANOTHER bus, another tragedy
A bus carrying passengers from Marikina to Marikina was involved in a collision with a truck, resulting in the death of a passenger and injuries to several others.

QUEDON
More dead in bus crash
A bus carrying passengers from Marikina to Marikina was involved in a collision with a truck, resulting in the death of a passenger and injuries to several others.

CITIZENPOWER
Green power plant running
A hydroelectric power plant in Marikina is now generating power, providing a source of clean energy for the area.

ABRA
Gun attacks in Abra
A series of gun attacks in Abra resulted in the death of several people and injuries to others.



A Full Night of '80s Nostalgia

Globe Business throws an all out '80's bash for Enterprise clients

The First Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La is up to '80s fashion as Globe Business recently celebrated its annual Appreciation Night for the company's enterprise customers. It was a night of fun and nostalgia as Globe Business executives and their valued partners donned colorful outfits from the '80s and danced to the decade's most popular music throughout the evening.

The celebration began with a cocktail event for Globe Business' CEO executives, Globe Telecom President and CEO Ernest Cu, together with Globe Business Head Ed Limon and Enterprise Segments Head Juan Romera, welcomed their guests and friends to the party. A short program featured a performance from singer Rachel Nijazul, who also hosted the event.



Group photo of Globe Business' CEO executives and Enterprise Segments Head Juan Romera, welcomed their guests and friends to the party.

Following the CEO cocktails was the main show, where close to a thousand guests representing Globe's leading enterprise clients were treated to a lineup of impressive performances from the country's top entertainers. Among the artists who showcased remarkable production numbers were '80s pop icons Liza Pareda, concert queen Pop Fernandez, contemporary Nasty's Ivonne and Juan Miguel Salcedo's The Authority band. Roderick Peralta and Cayce Martin hosted and opened the show with superb Rick Astley and Madonna numbers, respectively.

To add excitement to the party, more than 200 prizes were given away that night, including Nikon and Blackberry smartphones, Apple iPads and iPhones, Sony DSLR cameras, Wii, Xbox and PlayStation 3 consoles, Samsung LCD TVs and a MacBook. Eight lucky winners also received vacation packages or prestigious awards such as Shangri-La Borealis and the Imperial Palace in Maunabo, Cebu.



Performers Green Day, Phil Sneyd, and Doreen and friends enjoyed the night's entertainment.



After a night of entertainment, the celebration concluded with a group photo of the guests and hosts.

"We decided to do an '80s-themed event for this year's Appreciation Night because it lets our customers give up to the '80s," said Globe Business Head Ernest Cu. "This celebration is our way of showing how thankful we are to all our enterprise customers for sustaining their communication requirements to Globe. But apart from servicing their telecom needs, we have built significant friendships with our clients – and that is something we are most grateful for," he added.

"The year 2010 has been a very triumphant one for Globe Business and we have our customers to thank for this success. We hope that through events like the Appreciation Night, we are able to give back to our clients and show them how much we value the trust and partnerships," said Enterprise Segments Head Juan Romera. "We look forward to another good year in 2011 and more reasons to celebrate with our customers," added Romera.



Head of Enterprise Segments and Doreen, Liza Pareda, and friends enjoyed the night's entertainment.



After a night of entertainment, the celebration concluded with a group photo of the guests and hosts.



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Globe Business Head Ed Limon



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The World

Editor Lawrence B. Gueco

Denmark foils attack over prophet cartoons

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK—Police in Denmark and Sweden said they thwarted a terrorist attack possibly hours before it was to begin, arresting five men they say planned to shoot at many people as possible in a Copenhagen building housing the newsmen of a paper that published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

Four suspects were arrested on Wednesday in the suburbs of Copenhagen, including a Swede, a man from Lebanon and an Iraqi, and a Swedish citizen.

of Danish origin, was arrested in Sweden. The Swedish intelligence service said it aimed a scheme to get a closer and more accurate picture of the situation.

has been killed," said Jørgen Schibye, head of the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, an PZ. He said there is no one who was arrested in the city of Copenhagen, according to the newspaper, "either because of the great attack or in some kind of connection."

Schibye described some of the suspects as "middle-aged men with no obvious connections to terrorism or other groups."

Authorities said the attack followed months of surveillance.

Since Anders Christian, the head of Denmark's security police, said officers followed a car owned by three of the suspects from Stockholm to the Danish border late on Monday or early on Wednesday.

"We know that there were weapons in the car," Christian said.

Denmark intelligence said the group had been planning to enter the building where the Jyllands-Posten daily has its Copenhagen newsdesk and "to kill as many of the people present as possible."

Schibye said the assault was to have been carried out sometime before the weekend, and could have been similar to the 2006 suicide attack in Mumbai, India, that left 166 people dead.

"It is not an assumption that the plan was to try to get arrested" in the newspaper office and "carry out a bloodless attack," Schibye said.

Denmark Justice Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said the police were "investigating" and "probably the most serious terror attempts in Denmark."

Schibye, however, said there was no need to rule the attack's terror status out.

Denmark intelligence said it arrested a 26-year-old Iraqi in the suburbs of Copenhagen on the three Swedish suspects who had moved the car—a 40-year-old Swede, a 27-year-old Lebanese, a 26-year-old Iraqi and a 30-year-old whose national origin was not immediately released. The Danish revolution was arrested in a separate case, in a different Copenhagen suburb, from the other three, Schibye said.

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THE NEW GENERATION OF SMARTPHONES and other digital devices can connect users to the Internet via the mobile phone. But what often keeps subscribers from making the most of their phone's social capabilities is the perceived high cost of mobile internet connectivity.

Led by its desire to provide solutions for every customer need, Smart Communications recently launched two unique value packs and affordable data products that will give subscribers more seamless access to the Internet on their mobile phones. It now offers mobile internet packages to suit every consumer's needs, whether for quick use or long durations.

"With Smart's new lower mobile internet rates, accessing the Internet through their mobile phones is now more affordable. It will benefit both Smart Buddy and Smart Gold subscribers and empower them to make the most of their handhelds that may be capable of more than just call and text. Internet as a way of life becomes a reality as they can surf the web anywhere even without a PC."

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Smart Chief Wireless Advisor Dennis S. Vea

Smart prepaid subscribers will now be able to browse the Internet at only P1 per minute when they have a load of P10 or less. This new price gives subscribers—who may not have enough load for the standard use of P12 for every 30 minutes—an opportunity to surf the Internet on the fly, such as simply checking or updating their social media status or e-mail. They no longer have to worry about not having enough load to access the Internet. For a minimum of P3 (or three minutes of web browsing) remaining anytime, you can check your various social networking site accounts, search for great shopping deals, or maybe even see when the next showing of the biggest movie will be.

This possibility is brilliant, the cost really low, and all these right at your finger tips.

Equally good news awaits Smart's prepaid subscribers who may now avail for unlimited data plans bundled with the latest handhelds. Unlike other providers, Smart has partnered with several vendors to give last-value offers to its subscribers. Leading handset brands have expressed the desire to partner with Smart because of its leadership position in mobile data. Smart's exciting new packages include the Nokia 6110 free at Data Plan 2000, Samsung's Galaxy Two free at Data Plan 3000, and the HTC Wildfire free at Regular Plan 2300.

Smart's Head of Wireless Consumer Division Dennis J. Mojica said "the new more affordable rates for using Internet on their mobile phone gives subscribers more freedom to connect with loved ones and associates around the world, giving them true mobile connectivity from Smart."

"The new more affordable rates for using Internet on their mobile phone gives subscribers more freedom to connect with loved ones and associates around the world, giving them true mobile connectivity from Smart."

What they say...

Smartphone subscribers are rising and so too is the subscriber base for mobile data, seeing to the data device that can connect to the Internet any time any where. Social networking sites have become very big business indeed, with sites such as Facebook and Twitter linking people all over the world now the dominant force of communication.

It's time that's set to continue. Cheaper browsing access is now possible with Smart. Communications' new value pack and affordable data products.

It's a SMART's way of making sure that everyone can connect with no more hindrance to browsing the Internet.

Smart is my personal brand. I like their way of packaging themselves in a way that presents a clear image and a message to an audience. It matters what you see in a cell phone. Having your access to the Internet on Smart has opened my Internet as no other way has ever done. It's all about connecting online - fast, easy, affordable and easy!

MARGARETA RIVERA
Sales Account Manager

Early this year, Smart gave us 100% free access to data plans to surf for free for eight Fridays. Now Smart comes out with P1 per minute browsing. Truly Smart leads the way in providing affordable browsing available to all in the market.

GAUDILIO Sales Agent

Imagine SMART saving us with great data plans that makes it easier for people to connect in various means! SMART is really smart enough to listen to our wishes throughout the year.

It's going to be fun! It's a SMART prepaid user. The potential is connected with it. It's a SMART user.

It's a SMART's way of making sure that everyone can connect with no more hindrance to browsing the Internet.

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Global semicon industry revenue to grow 9%

Higher VAT take expected in 2011

By Remy W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT expects to collect P241.2 billion in combined revenues from sales or value-added tax (VAT) and income tax in 2011, higher by 24 percent from the target of P202.1 billion for 2010.

This is what Department of Finance under Budget Office (DOF) continued appeal for Congress to review VAT exemptions, which are contrary to government efforts to increase revenues.

Based on projections for next year, revenues from VAT and the basic tax would rise by almost a quarter of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's goal of P240.6 billion.

Last year, then Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves called for a review of exemptions on the value-added tax as the government's revenues continued to shrink due to more laws that gave tax breaks.

VAT relief must be reassessed to ensure that the objectives for stimulus have been met and whether other more effective policies can be used to achieve them, Teves said.

He said "structural weaknesses in the tax system" were one of the most serious threats to the government's fiscal position in 2012 when Malacañang hopes to bring the budget deficit to P200 billion—a cutting that the subsequent Aquino administration aimed to P222 billion.

Such weaknesses are "concentrated in the sector of income-taxing revenues which risked erosion from gross income, capital gains and depreciation in collection efficiency," Teves said.

CA asked to overturn RTC ruling on Banco Filipino

By Michael V. Sison

THE BARANGAY Council of Filipinos has requested a court order for it to grant a P25-billion financial assistance package to Banco Filipino.

The development after the BSP was directed by the Malacañang Regional Trial Court (RTC) in its attempt to extend the loan to Banco Filipino to complete a rehabilitation plan, which was then in need of additional funding.

Banco Filipino was founded closed by the BSP 25 years ago, citing the bank's financial woes. The bank reported six years later of its financial woes. The bank reported six years later of its financial woes.

Now in reorganization, the case seeking for an extension of financial assistance by the central bank to Banco Filipino had been ongoing until the Malacañang RTC issued its decision that the bank be closed.

BSP general counsel, Jose C. Zafra, who is also the executive deputy governor of the BSP for resource management, said the central bank has filed an appeal before the Court of Appeals.

He said the BSP has also asked the Court of Appeals to declare the Malacañang RTC's decision unconstitutional. This is so the central bank will not have to extend the P25-billion financial assistance to Banco Filipino which is now in an appeal.

The court's decision in the case of the BSP is the outcome of its supervisory function, there was no agreement between the BSP and Banco Filipino on the granting of financial assistance," said Dr. Zafra, citing the BSP's role in the case.

The Zafra said he could not provide further details on the case, given that it is ongoing.

Meanwhile, Dr. Zafra's position as executive deputy governor came after the retirement of former Deputy Governor Antonio Sison, who ended his tenure at the BSP in 2009.

He served working for the BSP in 2000. Prior to that, however, he already served in the legal department of the old monetary authority, the Central Bank of the Philippines. He also worked at Bank of Commerce before his stint at the BSP.

Dr. Zafra earned his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the Barangay University. He played a role in the bar examination in 1976.

These laws include the new income tax law signed last February that exempted the elderly from paying the VAT, among others, in using a 30 percent discount on purchases provided for in an older law—a benefit that is believed to understate the VAT.

The BSP had opposed the provisions of the law from the time it was a bill pending in Congress.

Finance officials said such exemptions would prevent a historical nightmare for the BSP which is already alone of measures to implement existing tax measures.

In an interview yesterday, Finance Undersecretary Dr. S. Sison estimated that it would have been better to increase senior citizens' discount on purchases to 30 percent of their bills, instead of providing VAT exemption.

According to the BSP, the Treasury stands to lose P1.58 billion in tax collections annually with the law's implementation.

Mobile devices to drive demand, says IDC

By Miguel L. Ho

THE GLOBAL semiconductor market is set to expand by 9 percent next year and will likely reach a single-digit growth rate annually by 2011.

According to International Data Group's (IDG) Semiconductor Applications Forecast, the industry should register a compound annual growth rate of 6 percent from 2010-2015.

The industry grew by 8 percent last year, brought about by the global recession of 2008 and 2009 is now by 21 percent in 2010. Growth should slow down to single-digit levels in the next five years, however, as the sector matures.

"Next year, the semiconductor market should be driven by the overall growth of the year and begin a growth cycle that will rise to the second half of 2011," IDC semiconductor research vice president Steve

Winters said.

The growing popularity of mobile devices, consoles, and LCD and LED televisions could give the semiconductor industry a huge push over the coming year, affecting planning and even affecting revenue from traditional consumer electronic devices such as DVD players and game consoles.

This development would enable the consumer industry segment of the industry to grow by 10 percent in 2011 and 3 percent, compounded annually, from 2010-2015.

The emerging industry segment, which accounted for around 40 percent of total semiconductor revenues, was projected to expand by 7 percent next year and register a compounded annual growth rate of 10 percent during the forecast period.

Given by the popularity of smart phones, the semiconductor industry segment was forecasted to be

robust, with revenues now being a record \$80 billion in 2010. However, pricing pressures could keep the projected 2011 growth rate at 9 percent and the 2010-2015 compound annual growth rate at only 6 percent.

"Overall, IDC continues to maintain the view expressed in its previous semiconductor market update published in October 2010. IDC also continues to maintain semiconductor growth, both as positive high state

ment in the IDC, the emerging market, and a connectivity-driven market in the IDC, France, India, China, could influence semiconductor market expansion in 2011," IDC semiconductor research manager Mark Delmonico said.

Region-wise, Asia-Pacific would continue to account for the bulk of global semiconductor revenues, with the region share of the pie increasing by more than 40 percent in 2015.

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2010 saw dynamic retail; 2011 will see some expansions

Compiled by Chelsa V. Moral

2010 WAS the year the Philippine retail landscape was not only a political one but also a retail one for the Philippines. It was the year when global brands entered the local market, and also when Filipino brands that became global, such as Bench, Social, and others, entered the local market and competing the environment. It was also the year when young and women went into retail.

2011 looks like a dynamic and positive year for retail. 2011 opens expansion for some brands, such as Louis Vuitton, which is looking forward to having its two-story flagship store.



Marco Karagluk

Louis Vuitton opens its 2-story store; Bench commits to eco-superior lines; Russian's Group expects another good year

retail concepts. On a personal note, I look back on 2010 with gratitude for all the learning and valuable career and family-wise. I look forward to additional challenges, and an addition to my family.

—Marco Karagluk, country manager for Vietnam and Bulgaria

Payless and Maj

In 2010, we saw the rise of more affordable luxury in Philippine retailing. Payless

Shoe Source introduced the Filipino consumer to fashionable, trendy and quality footwear at prices accessible to a broad market. And offered local drive, quality merchandise that appeals to a wide range of urban dwellers. And, lastly, the company's in local and online the market place with its introduction of the first eco-friendly outfit, and the first Starbucks outlet with a drive-through.

In 2011, I look forward to a strong recovery brought about by political stability and the influx of foreign investments from the efforts of our government. A strong recovery means growth in personal consumption expenditure, which drives retail sales. Retail sales, which is the mainstay of our work force, which translates into employment for many Filipinos. So we expect a good year for our business on the overall



Donnie and Christine Tamarra

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Skincare tips that won't break the bank

THE HOLIDAYS can be hard on your skin, but there are ways to keep it healthy. It's not just your skin's natural oils that are being stripped away, but also the moisture that keeps your skin hydrated. Here are some tips to keep your skin healthy and hydrated during the holidays.

...care of your skin without breaking the bank. ...it is important to keep your skin hydrated, so you can keep your skin healthy and hydrated during the holidays. ...it is important to keep your skin hydrated, so you can keep your skin healthy and hydrated during the holidays.



Knockout!
Ria Francisco, *Prête*

...whitening and so on. ...it is important to keep your skin hydrated, so you can keep your skin healthy and hydrated during the holidays.



NOIR your skin red.

Our skin deserves a breather after taking a beating during the holidays



PARSIFLOR Super Collagen Mask

Celebrate the Yuletide Season with McDonald's New Holiday Chills



HOLIDAY chills

With the Christmas spirit still in the air, McDonald's is celebrating the season with its new Holiday Chills. The drink is a soft drink with a chocolate brownie and a chocolate brownie. It is available at McDonald's locations nationwide.

More sleep for Venus, more cardio for Liz—and more

THEY SAY that life, though on a downward slide, can only be lived forward. The willing is of the new year has always been a time for looking back at the past. It's a time to reflect on the things that went well, and to think about the things that didn't. It's a time to look back at the things that went well, and to think about the things that didn't.



BACKSTAGE PASS
Isabel Flores

Celebs' beauty and lifestyle resolutions for the new year



making up every morning at 5 a.m. This is my resolution for 2011.

...celebrate the holidays with McDonald's new Holiday Chills. The drink is a soft drink with a chocolate brownie and a chocolate brownie. It is available at McDonald's locations nationwide.

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EMANCA Future

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MDH celebrates 54th Anniversary

The Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH) celebrated its 54th anniversary last December 8 with varied activities to culminate the year.

The celebration started with a photo exhibit that showcased the various milestones the Hospital had for 2010. These milestones include new services, accreditation and partnerships with PhilHealth and international accreditation companies, the different awards the Hospital and its units won from national and international award-giving bodies, and corporate social responsibility programs, among others.

The Hospital also hosted a medical mission in its partner community, Barangay 737 in San Andres, Manila, as part of the Hospital's corporate social responsibility anniversary program. Residents of Barangay 737 received free medical treatment during the one-day medical mission.

MDH also held a Christmas Tree Making Contest on December 8, where the Nursing Service Division bagged the top prize. The Christmas trees were made of recyclable materials that the various divisions usually use in their daily operation.



MDH also recognized the medical and non-medical staff who received recognitions from external organizations and those who have served the Hospital for years, during the morning festivities on December 8. The Customer Relations Service Department also gave single tokens to admitted patients on the day as an appreciation of their continued patronage.



Culminating the celebrations was the first ever Mr. MDH and Mrs. MDH and the yearly dance competition where five Hospital divisions competed to be the Anniversary Night stars. The Admin Dancers emerged as the winner of the 70s Retro Night Contest. Nursing Service Division's Roberto Bonifacio and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology resident Dr. Marie Ann Espinoza Concepcion were named as Mr. MDH and Mrs. MDH respectively.

One of the leading centers of health and wellness in the Philippines, the Manila Doctors Hospital is a Metrobank Foundation healthcare affiliate. The Foundation actively supports the Hospital's operations and provides funds for a wide array of social services, which includes subsidies for in-house charity patients, outreach programs and health-related interventions in adopted communities, and research. The Hospital was recently recertified as an ISO 9001:2009 institution and is poised to become a key player in the growing medical tourism industry.

Season's Greetings from Manila Doctors Hospital

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Shalini 'warms up' her TV image

"SWELLING WHEEL" co-host Shaked Imhofstad has some advice on the very end of your conversation: Just let the appearance on the now-popular evening game show. Finally, however, we're used to a gradual "swelling out" of the TV image.

She's always been lovely, but now she looks more stylish and "mature"—and has even "experimented" with "teen dating" (she has), which, as you can guess, has led to some body as much as before.

Most (obviously) surprising to this regard was the "impulse" or "hearted" quality that she most exemplified: working. It didn't look any less conservative when compared to the one she'd been born by the shore's late of dawn—but for Shalini, it was a major "statement" that she was ready to put up and add more "thing" to her image as pure show-

Some viewers may have been "shocked" by Huhner's "transformation" that day, but we embraced it, because the less what it took to pull it off (over 70).

Rehearsal, a game show is supposed to be "short bit," exciting and "fun," as Madras wants to "look the part" more in her new line of work—without losing her own unique identity as a performer and person, of course.

In time, we wish that she will also become a freeman and share restraining spurs and horn, and become less dependent on the packaged goods that she dutifully receives without question or complaint.

Worked example

An indication that she has what it takes to do this is the fact that she occasionally engages in verbal jousts with host Willie Norval, and delights the studio audience with her being "game" and coming up with creative answers to her own.

After all, she's been a local politician for years, an entrepreneur in the restaurant, she's an herbaceous flower-child on the steps of the world. Once of her, the student, she's.

And, while you're at it, we wish that you'd wear pants enough often on the show to cause us producers to draw in breath and draw us "up" instead of slipping down "down." It was difficult and often tedious to watch you fall for your outfit.

Children are watching, you know, as parents and teachers will be extremely grateful to you (and PWTB) if you broadcast the show's most and sometimes most famous scenes.

having to report to each diurnal, explosive and descending plume, or "Village Village" (see, too).

If you're like the "cheer up" the cheer's out.



Verónica E. Barve

you will show the prejudice of other programs featuring any dancers, like "Win or Win" and "Eat Fatigue," that it can be done...and many viewers will benefit.

Well, it's time for the future. It's the industry's turn to bring a more natural, mainstream and livelier host and become more popular as you'll require the show to be able to improve the best TV show in an even more significant way in the near future.

[illegible]

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ing technology — something Hollywood producers would like their audience to experience.

Catalan noted that local movie producers will have to "adapt ourselves to new digital conditions."

Each content will be offered, Money Line, 1/4 Files, business programming, printed out. Only action, announced January and hour-making will be perfectly suited for 30 min.

Enallagen estimated that 3D technology

will have specific games, but Holmwood hopes it will not simply be said, "If photos are e-mailing, why not e-mailing with a cell phone or digital camera?" Inside a 3D monitor, they will get layered images. Going fully digital

In the local market ready for WFP-Samsung marketing, "The local film industry is a huge

"It is definitely the trend," said Cameli.

So how will the 30 expansion affect small indie ex-art firms? (Answer is: hopefully that it will be a double-edged sword.) The old indie firms

This is where the FDCP's Glacemallique project comes in, Santos said. "Glacemallique" means "trekking the forest, and up or acquiring some of the most difficult mountainous terrain in

...these are clearly what will benefit and how inhibit the growth of Philippine cinema."

